

REPRESENTATIVE GAFFNEY, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I REPRESENT THE MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL AND IT'S 63 MEMBERS ORGANIZATIONS, EACH FROM A SEPARATE MICHIGAN COUNTY OR AREA. THE COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORTS SENATE BILL 795, INTRODUCED BY SENATORS GEORGE, HARDIMAN, ALLEN, BIRKHOLZ, KUIPERS, GOSCHKA AND MCMANUS.

THIS BILL IS NEEDED TO MAKE MICHIGAN RECORDS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO MICHIGAN PEOPLE. IN 1897, MICHIGAN CHANGED IT'S STATEWIDE RECORDING METHOD FOR BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS, IN PLACE SINCE 1867. WE ARE ONE OF THE FEWER THAN 20 AMERICAN STATES WHICH MAINTAIN STATEWIDE RECORDS OF VITAL EVENTS BEFORE 1900. WE HAVE A TREASURY OF OVER THIRTY MILLION RECORDS FROM THE LIVES OF MICHIGAN PEOPLE.

THE 1897 LAW REQUIRED A SEPARATE CERTIFICATE TO BE MADE FOR EACH EVENT, AND THE PARTICIPANT OR WITNESS OF EACH EVENT TO REPORT THAT HAPPENING TO THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH IT HAPPENED. THESE SINGLE CERTIFICATES ARE ON FILE AT THE OFFICE OF THE STATE REGISTRAR OF MICHIGAN, NOW LOCATED AT 201 TOWNSEND STREET, LANSING, ACROSS FROM THE CAPITOL.

YOUR HANDOUT SHOWS A SAMPLE CERTIFICATE, LABELED "A", ISSUED BY THE STATE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, AND OPPOSITE IT, LABELED "B", A DEATH RECORD TYPED FROM THE LEDGER MAINTAINED IN THE BAY COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. YOU CAN SEE THAT THERE ARE MANY MORE FACTS ON THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE, AND THAT THERE IS EVEN A MIS-SPELLING OF THE NAME OF ONE PERSON ON THE TYPED RECORD FROM THE COUNTY LEDGER.

MICHIGAN RESEARCHERS NEED ACCESS TO THESE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES. SENATE BILL 795 DEVELOPS THE MECHANISM FOR COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE FILMS TO BE PLACED AT THE LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN FOR FREE PUBLIC USE – AT NO COST TO THE STATE. FILMS OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND DEATH MORE THAN 75 YEARS OLD WOULD BE OPEN TO PUBLIC USE, AND FILMS OF BIRTHS MORE THAN 110 YEARS OLD.

The Office of the State Registrar would be relieved of the burden of seeking, in totally inadequate non-computerized indexes, these ancient records. A former State Registrar has stated that a copy of such a record cannot be produced, even under today's costs of \$26.00 a copy, at a profit or even covering its cost of production. Researchers would be free to do their own search in the films and their indexes – at no cost to them or loss of revenue to the State. There is no funding in any foreseeable future to allow the Office of the State Registrar to return to indexing Michigan's ancient records.

The cost of the films, estimating at a first transfer for the death films and their present inadequate indexes from 1897 thru 1920 would be approximately \$4,680.00, using the State Vendor. These costs were developed by the Office of the State Registrar. This sum, \$4,680.00, would be provided by the Michigan Genealogical Council to the Library of Michigan Foundation to be transferred to the Office of the State Registrar for film production payment.

At a later date, further films would be produced by the State vendor for the Office of the State Registrar and transferred to the Library of Michigan, again funded by the Michigan Genealogical Council. SB 795 provides a WIN-WIN situation, making records available, lifting a costly burden from a state office, increasing tourism attractions for the Lansing area and making our history more accessible to Michiganians at no cost to State Government. We urge this Committee to pass Senate Bill 795.

Joanne Harvey, Research Access Chair, Michigan Genealogical Council
Melvin Holley, Lansing African-American Genealogical Society

A

PLACE OF DEATH			STATE OF MICHIGAN		Department of State—Division of Vital Statistics	
County <u>Bay</u>			CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		Registered No. <u>830</u>	
Township _____						
Village _____						
City <u>Bay City</u>			(No. <u>Bay City</u> / <u>Hochula</u>)		St. _____ Ward _____	
2 FULL NAME <u>Joseph Marshall Ormrod</u>					NOV 5 1918	
(a) Residence, No. <u>2000 Main</u>			St., Ward. _____		(If non-resident give city or town and State.)	
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____ yrs. _____ mos.			How long in U. S. if of foreign birth _____ yrs. _____ mos.			
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS				MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH		
3 SEX <u>Male</u>	4 Color or Race <u>White</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word.) <u>Married</u>	16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day and year) <u>Nov 1 1919</u>			
6a If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of _____ (or) WIFE of _____			17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u>Oct 31, 1919</u> , to <u>Nov 1, 1919</u>			
6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year.) <u>July - 3 - 1841</u>			18 I last saw him alive on <u>Oct 31, 1919</u> and that death occurred on the date stated above at <u>10 p.m.</u>			
7 AGE Years <u>78</u> Months <u>3</u> Days <u>28</u>	8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED <u>Retired</u>		19 CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: <u>Cerebral Tumor</u>			
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work			(duration) _____ yrs. <u>6</u> mos. _____ ds.			
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer)			CO. (TRIBUTORY (secondary) <u>Arterio Sclerosis</u>			
(c) Name of employer			(duration) _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.			
9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <u>Ontario</u>			20 Where was disease contracted? _____ If not at place of death? _____			
10 NAME OF FATHER <u>As Ormrod</u>			21 Did an operation precede death? <u>No</u> Date of _____			
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or country) <u>England</u>			22 Was there an autopsy? <u>No</u>			
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Hannah Green</u>			23 Test confirmed diagnosis? <u>No</u>			
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or country) <u>Canada</u>			(Signed) <u>E. J. Beckwith</u> M. D.			
14 Informant <u>For, Arthur Ormrod</u>			24 State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES state the NATURE and NATURE of INJURY, and (3) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for further instructions.)			
15 Date <u>Nov 4, 1919</u> <u>J. H. H. H.</u> Registrar.			25 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL <u>Oak Ridge</u>			
			26 UNDER-TAKER <u>W. H. H. H.</u>			
			Date of Burial <u>Nov 19 1919</u>			
			Address <u>Bay City</u>			

DEATH CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

County of Bay

ss.

I, BARBARA ALBERTSON

Clerk of the Circuit Court of said County, said Court being a Court of record and having a seal,
do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct transcript of the record of the death of

JOSEPH ORMOND as appears in Record of Deaths.Liber G. , Page 149Record Number 662Full Name Joseph OrmondDate of Death November 1, 1919Place of Death Bay CityBirth Date of Deceased not givenAge: 78 Years 3 Months 28 DaysSex Male Color or Race white Single ☐ Married ☒ Widowed ☐ Divorced ☐Name of Husband or Wife not givenName of Father Joseph Ormond Birthplace EnglandMaiden Name of Mother Hannah Seor Birthplace CanadaBirthplace of Deceased Ontario CanadaUsual Occupation RetiredUsual Residence Bay CityCause of Death TUMORPlace of Burial not givenFuneral Director not given Address Physician or Coroner not given Address Date of Record November 1919.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court
at Bay City, in said County, this 22nd

day of FebruaryA D 19 94